12. (Amended) A composite sheet comprising:

a first layer having a first side and an opposite second side; and

a second layer attached to the first side of the first layer comprising a spunbond web of continuous multiple component filaments, the multiple component filaments having a cross-section, a length, and a peripheral surface and comprising a polyester component and a polyethylene component arranged in substantially distinct zones across the cross-section of the multiple component filaments and extending substantially continuously along the length of the multiple component filaments, the polyethylene component comprising a blend of linear low density polyethylene copolymer consisting of ethylene copolymerized with minor amounts of an ά-olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms and high density polyethylene homopolymer, at least a portion of the peripheral surface of the multiple component filaments comprising the polyethylene component.

26. (Amended) The composite sheet according to of claim 12, further comprising:

a third layer attached to the opposite second side of the first layer comprising a second spunbond web of continuous multiple component filaments, the spunbond filaments having a cross-section, a length, and a peripheral surface, and comprising a polyester component and a polyethylene component, the polyester and polyethylene components being arranged in substantially distinct zones across the cross-section of the multiple component filaments and extending substantially continuously along the length of the multiple component filaments, the polyethylene component comprising a blend of a linear low density polyethylene copolymer consisting of ethylene copolymerized with minor amounts of an ά-olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms and a high density polyethylene homopolymer, at least a portion of the peripheral surface of the multiple component filaments comprising the polyethylene component.

REMARKS

The amendment to the claims finds basis at page 5, lines 1-8 and lines 26-28. No new matter is added.

Applicants submit that the amendment to the claims overcomes the rejection of the last Office Action over Lickfield et al. in view of Tabor et al., since Tabor invariably teaches that at least one of his polyethylene components must be grafted with anhydride moieties. It is clear from the definitions of linear low density

polyethylene and high density polyethylene (page 5 of the specification), which are now specifically incorporated in the claim language, that the polyethylene component of the present claims cannot include grafted moieties.

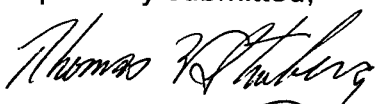
In the Final Office Action, mailed October 3, 2002, the Examiner indicates that Lickfield et al. disclose polymer blends at column 5, lines 25-27, supposedly arguing that blended polyethylenes are suggested by Lickfield et al. The Examiner's attention is directed to the entirety of that same paragraph, i.e. column 5, lines 21-32, wherein Lickfield et al. describe filaments made of polymer blends of either a polyester or a polyamide continuous phase and polyethylene dispersed phase. That is, the polyethylene is a minor component in a blend with either polyester or polyamide; not a blended polyethylene as claimed herein.

In the Advisory Action, mailed January 16, 2003, the Examiner points to Lickfield et al., column 6, lines 1-5, for the proposition that Lickfield et al. disclose LLDPE. While true, the Examiner's attention is directed to the remainder of that paragraph, wherein Lickfield et al. specifically indicate that the LLDPE is useful in making meltblown fibers. The present application is directed to spunbond fabrics (claims 1-11) and to composite sheets containing such spunbond fabrics (claims 12-29). Lickfield et al. are entirely silent regarding the use of LLDPE in their spunbond fabric. This issue is discussed more fully in Applicants' first response, dated May 28, 2002, pages 2-3.

Finally, Applicants note that neither cited reference discloses or suggests the subject matter of claim 15.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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TWS:fgl
Enclosure

AMENDMENT INDICATING CHANGES

In the amendment below insertions are indicated by underling and deletions by brackets.

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A spunbond nonwoven fabric comprising continuous multiple component filaments having a cross-section, a length, and a peripheral surface and comprising a polyester component and a polyethylene component arranged in substantially distinct zones across the cross-section of the multiple component filaments and extending substantially continuously along the length of the multiple component filaments, at least a portion of the peripheral surface of the multiple component filaments comprising the polyethylene component, and the polyethylene component comprising a blend of linear low density polyethylene copolymer consisting of ethylene copolymerized with minor amounts of an ά-olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms and high density polyethylene homopolymer, the high density polyethylene being present in an amount greater than 50 weight percent of the polyethylene component.

5. (Amended) The spunbond fabric according to claim 1 wherein the [linear low density polyethylene comprises a copolymer of ethylene and a] ά-olefin co-monomer is selected from the group consisting of 1-octene, 1-hexene, and 1-butene.

12. (Amended) A composite sheet comprising:

a first layer having a first side and an opposite second side; and

a second layer attached to the first side of the first layer comprising a spunbond web of continuous multiple component filaments, the multiple component filaments having a cross-section, a length, and a peripheral surface and comprising a polyester component and a polyethylene component arranged in substantially distinct zones across the cross-section of the multiple component filaments and extending substantially continuously along the length of the multiple component filaments, the polyethylene component comprising a blend of linear low density polyethylene copolymer consisting of ethylene copolymerized with minor amounts of an ά-olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms and high density polyethylene homopolymer, at least a

portion of the peripheral surface of the multiple component filaments comprising the polyethylene component.

26. (Amended) The composite sheet according to of claim 12, further comprising:

a third layer attached to the opposite second side of the first layer comprising a second spunbond web of continuous multiple component filaments, the spunbond filaments having a cross-section, a length, and a peripheral surface, and comprising a polyester component and a polyethylene component, the polyester and polyethylene components being arranged in substantially distinct zones across the cross-section of the multiple component filaments and extending substantially continuously along the length of the multiple component filaments, the polyethylene component comprising a blend of a linear low density polyethylene copolymer consisting of ethylene copolymerized with minor amounts of an ά-olefin having 3 to 12 carbon atoms and a high density polyethylene homopolymer, at least a portion of the peripheral surface of the multiple component filaments comprising the polyethylene component.